

BEESLEY, RICHARD HENRY 200189 Corporal 1/4th Battalion 164th Brigade 55th Div.

THE LOYAL NORTH LANCASHIRE REGIMENT

Born Preston Enlisted Leyland Living Farington

Killed in Action France / Flanders 31st July 1917

Ref: 'Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919', Part 50.

A Memorial Inscription appears on the family grave in St. Paul's Churchyard, Farington:-

CPL RICHARD HENRY BEESLEY

Who fell in action July 31st, 1917

Aged 20 years

Son of Elizabeth Annie Beesley

His name appears on the following local memorials:-

St. Ambrose Memorial, Moss Lane, Leyland
Memorial Window in St. Paul's, Farington

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

With no known grave, Cpl. Beesley's name appears on the:-

YPRÈS (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL, BELGIUM

Name location:- Panel 41 or 43.

The son of John and Elizabeth Annie Beesley, of 3 Bridge Cottages, Farington.

Lancashire Daily Post Thursday August 1st, 1918

'In Memoriam'

BEESLEY - In loving memory of our dear son Corporal Richard Henry Beesley, L.N.L. Regt., officially reported wounded and missing on July 31st, 1917 in the third Battle for Yprès. Now officially reported killed on that day or since.

*"Our son is not buried, but embalmed in undying glory
We and the whole world are debtors to him
Such men never die"*

From – His loving Father and Mother and family, Bridge Cottages, Farington, Near Preston; also Nellie, Bamber Bridge.

Continued

'History of the 1/4th Battalion of the Loyals'

Those who signed the 'Roll of Volunteers Abroad, 8th August 1914', includes:-

'D' Company Richard Henry Beesley.

'A Record of the Battles and Engagements of the British Armies in France and Flanders, 1914-1918', by Captain E. A. James.

The 31st July 1917 was the opening day of 3rd Yprès. The 1/4th Battalion., 55th Division, was involved on that day in the Battle of Pilckem. Presumably, this is where R. H. Beesley lost his life.

Note:- Yprès (now Ieper) is a town in the Province of West Flanders. The Memorial is situated at the eastern side of the town on the road to Menin and Courtrai, and bears the names of 55,000 men who were lost without trace during the defence of the Yprès Salient.

Beesley, Richard Henry.

W.E. Waring 2003